

STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Agenda Consideration

TOPIC: Child Care Services Update
(Before and After; All Day)

ITEM NO.: 4F

PREPARED BY: Patty Sullivan
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MEETING: December 13, 2005
ACTION DATE: None

ACTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT: None – Information Only

KEY POINTS:

General Information ~

- An Agenda Consideration item was presented to the School Board informing it that a Request for Information (RFI) would be sought relating to child care services.
- An (RFI) was issued and a child care advisory committee was established. Deadline to receive information was four weeks after issuance.
- A survey was done to ascertain the need(s) for day care facilities within the schools.
- The RFI responses and surveys were reviewed by the finance department and the advisory committee.
- Based on responses, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued.
- The RFP responses were reviewed by all members of the advisory committee. A meeting was held to determine further action.
- Three of those that responded to the RFPs were interviewed. These included the YMCA, Minnieland, and Knowledge Learning Center.

Before- and After-School Child Care ~

- All of the respondents currently run before- and after-child care; however, the YMCA does not use school facilities. Two of the respondents propose discounts for Stafford County Public School employees. Minnieland and Knowledge Learning Center provide before- and after-child care in the elementary schools in Prince William County and Spotsylvania County, respectively.
- Spotsylvania County Public Schools began its before- and after-school child care program in eight of its 16 elementary schools in August 2005. The remaining eight schools will begin providing this same service in August 2006. There have been no noted problems between the provider and the schools.
- On Monday, November 28, 2005, two members of the finance department visited in Spotsylvania County Courthouse Elementary to observe the interaction between the students in the program and the Knowledge Learning Center personnel.

Before- and After-School Child Care (continued) ~

- Prince William County Public Schools runs their before- and after-day care facility through a county government office. A fee of \$5 per week per child is used to pay for this office, making it a self-sufficient entity. Day care is made available in 41 of the 56 elementary schools in Prince William County.
- A site visit will be scheduled in a Prince William County elementary school in the near future.
- Fairfax County Public Schools runs their before- and after-school day care program solely through the schools. It hires from within, making its program less expensive than hiring an outside provider. Day care is made available in 137 of the 187 elementary schools in Fairfax County.

All-Day Child Care ~

- Currently, there are no child care providers in the surrounding counties that use school facilities for all day child care. All-day child care would be required for children between the ages of 6 weeks until they begin kindergarten.
- A determination will need to be made as to the feasibility of providing all-day child care within the schools. At a minimum, two classrooms would need to be dedicated to this effort. This has proven to be a difficult task as there are no “stable zones” (with possibly the exception of Park Ridge Elementary School) within Stafford County. The school population is a reflection of current growth within the county.

Closing ~

- Upon receipt of additional information, and based on site visits, the advisory committee will meet to determine further action. Although this program will assist in attracting and retaining quality staff, the feasibility of such an undertaking, and at what level, will need to be established.
- An agenda consideration item will be presented to the School Board asking for action based on findings with September 2006 as the target date to begin a before- and after-school child care program.

SCHOOL BOARD GOAL #6: Introduce programs to enhance employee status, within the school division and the community at large, so that employees are aware of their value to school and the community.

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

AUTHORIZATION REFERENCE: N/A